

Amendment of August 9, 2002, Applicants respectfully request that claims 16, 19, and 22 be amended to add back the deleted subject matter. Claims 16, 19, and 22 should read as follows:

16.^{Amended} A recombinant virus selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, adeno-associated virus and herpes virus, said recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- C1
- (a) nucleic acids encoding a mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration *in vitro*;
 - (b) the site for binding of p53 to DNA; and
 - (c) nucleic acids encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.

19. ¹¹ A recombinant virus according to claim 16, wherein said virus comprises two nucleic acids selected from the group consisting of:

- C2
- (a) nucleic acids encoding a mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration;
 - (b) the site for binding of p53 to DNA; and
 - (c) nucleic acids encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.

22. ¹¹ A method of inhibiting toxicity in cultured neuronal cells comprising administering to said cells a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- C3
- (a) nucleic acids encoding a mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration *in vitro*;
 - (b) the site for binding of p53 to DNA; and